



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Inventor : Hugh Mcloone

Appln. No.: 09/286739

Filed : April 06, 1999

For : COMPUTER INPUT DEVICE WITH
DIGIT SUPPORT AND NATURAL
POSITION ACTUATORS

Docket No.: M 61.12-0124

Group Art Unit: 2674

Examiner: Zamani, Ali

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RESPONSE

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS

23rd DAY OF August, 20 01
Therese M. Dy
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 23, 2001 in which claims 1, 3, 5-12, 14, 16-18, 23, and 25-31 were rejected.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5-12, 14, 16-18, 23, and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Zenz (US Pat. No. 5,841,425) in view of Siddiqui et al. (US Pat. No. 6,097,371, hereinafter Siddiqui) and further in view of Goldstein et al. (US Pat. No. 6,124,846, hereinafter Goldstein). (Applicants note that although claim 23 has been rejected, the rejection is misplaced since claim 23 was cancelled in the Amendment of February 26, 2001.)

Zenz discloses a mouse and a trackball that include sensors for determining whether the user is holding the mouse or track ball with their left hand or with their right hand. In the mouse embodiment, the sensor is located in the natural gripping position for the user's thumb. Thus, when the user is holding the mouse, their thumb touches the sensor.